

FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

APLU's Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) Update

FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

Elevating the Board on Agricultural Assembly (BAA) Advocacy Messaging

Leadership from the BAA is pleased to announce the first-ever convening of a Leadership Advocacy Summit that will bring together individuals from across the national network of public and land-grant universities with a focus on the dynamics of successful federal advocacy strategies, how to be more effective in working with your federal offices, the key elements of advocacy messaging, the organizational structure of the BAA advocacy efforts, and how annual appropriations (the Budget and Advocacy Committee) and Farm Bill priorities (Committee on Legislation and Policy) are determined.

The intended audience is Vice Chancellors, Vice Presidents and Deans of the college of agriculture (life sciences and natural resources), senior level administrators (associate deans, research directors, Extension directors, 1890 administrators, 1994 TCU's, center directors) and other senior leadership with an interest in knowing more about BAA advocacy structure and priority setting.

SAVE THE DATE for November 1-3 in Washington DC. More details forthcoming.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Update

Prepared for the Board on Agriculture Assembly by Lewis-Burke Associates

The August recess has begun, and Congressional members are back in their home districts for the month to campaign and meet with constituents. When Congress returns in September, agreements or extensions on fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills and the 2023 Farm Bill will need to be addressed.

- **FY 2024 Appropriations**
The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will begin formal negotiations after the recess to reconcile differences between each chamber's drafted FY 2024 appropriations bills. The Senate approved all 12 of its FY 2024 bills out of Committee and the House has approved 10 of the 12 bills out of Committee, but no bill has yet to pass on the floor of either chamber.
- **Farm Bill Update**
House and Senate Agriculture Committee staff are currently working on drafting Farm Bill legislation, with leadership in both chambers hoping for Committee action in September. Farm Bill listening sessions continue around the country, as stakeholders convene to discuss important issues concerning them and their regions.
- **USDA Leadership**
On July 11, Xochitl Torres Small was confirmed as the new Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Before becoming Deputy Secretary Torres Small served as Under Secretary of Rural Development since October 2021.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

CATIE launches campaign to strengthen the Miley González Scholarship Fund for Indigenous Peoples

The APLU Office of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources is supporting the Miley González Scholarship Fund for Indigenous Peoples Campaign. Hosted by The Tropics Foundation in

partnership with CATIE and Amigos of Costa Rica, this week-long campaign will raise funds to send a deserving student from an indigenous community in Latin America to the Center for Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education (CATIE) to receive their masters degree in sustainable tropical agriculture.

Help a student gain the skills, tools, and resources to graduate and in turn, empower their communities to advance sustainable agricultural practices.

About the Miley González Scholarship Fund for Indigenous Peoples: The fund was established in 2020 in memory of Dr. I. Miley González. Dr. González had a long and distinguished career of more than four decades in higher education and government, including serving as CATIE's deputy director general and Dean of the Graduate School. In addition to his service at CATIE, Dr. González held posts at Montana State, New Mexico State University, the University of Arizona, Pennsylvania State University and Iowa State University. A highly sought after academic, Dr. González was nominated by former U.S. President Bill Clinton to serve as the Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, serving from 1997 to 2001. In this role, he provided oversight for the Agricultural Research Service, the Economic Research Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

In addition, Dr. González served as a member of the National Telephone Bank Board, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the White House Commission for Excellence in Hispanic and Native American Education, and on the U.S./China Commission on Science and Technology. He served for more than 15 years on the USDA Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities leadership team representing NMSU. Hispanic Business Magazine recognized him as one the top 100 most influential Hispanics in the U.S.

How to participate: The campaign will take place on August 7-11, 2023 (in celebration of International Day for Indigenous Peoples on August 9, 2023). [Donate online here.](#)

[Read the full press release here.](#)

BAA Advocacy in Action: How the Farm Bill Could Affect Higher Education

A recent article in *Inside Higher Ed* outlines the Board on Agriculture Assembly's 2023 Farm Bill request of \$5 billion in mandatory funding for the Research Facilities Act.

Budget and Advocacy Committee Chair, Michael Boehm, *University of Nebraska*, is quoted:

"It's just impossible for us to do the research that's needed to move the world forward and move American agriculture in facilities that were built before Watson, Crick and Rosalind Franklin"

figured out the structure of DNA. It's hard to do cutting-edge research on climate-smart commodities when you can't control the temperature in the greenhouses."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Board on Health and Human Sciences Awards

You are invited to nominate a deserving individual, faculty, or staff member for one of four **Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS) awards** presented at APLU's Annual Meeting, November 12-14, 2023.

The awards include:

- **Ellen Swallow Richards Public Service Award**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **Outstanding Engagement Award**
- **Undergraduate Research Mentor Award**

A \$1000 travel stipend will be provided for award winners. All award materials should be submitted to: Susan Thomas, BHHS Associate (bhhs@aplu.org), by September 1, 2023.



Be A Part of the IEP Designation Program

The Innovation and Economic Prosperity Universities Designation program was established to offer universities an opportunity to better know, measure, tell, and enhance their economic and community development impact. Since launching in 2013, over 80 institutions have utilized the IEP designation process to break down internal silos to maximize their external engagement strategies. Many institutions utilize the IEP process to re-structure economic development units, modify strategic plans, tell the story of their impact by creating or expanding on new events and public affairs efforts, strengthened their operations by implementing best practices, and lay the foundation for successful federal grant-funding applications.

If your institution is interested in seeking the IEP designation, schedule a 30-minute meeting with the IEP team through [Calendly](#) to discuss your institution's involvement, address additional questions, and further illustrate IEP's impact on peer institutions. Contact APLU's IEP team at iep@aplu.org for questions regarding the IEP program.

Click this [link](#) to learn more about pursuing the IEP designation.

APLU / FANR EVENTS



APLU Annual Meeting

Seattle, WA | November 12 – 14, 2023

The APLU Annual Meeting is the premier gathering of senior leaders from public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state university systems. The theme of this year's meeting is *Innovation for Impact*.

This year's meeting schedule includes added time for networking with colleagues from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Join senior public university leaders from across North America as we tackle subjects related to:

- Institutional strategies on AI and its impact on pedagogy, research, and workforce development
- Faculty development and retention
- Establishing a proactive and systemic approach to responding to the next campus crisis
- International partnerships around innovation
- Research integrity and security
- Partnering with industry and government leaders to meet workforce needs
- Creating a sense of belonging for all students
- And much, much more! (The full agenda will be released in the weeks ahead)

Specific to the Office of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, FANR staff are preparing the following sessions for our members:

- Awards Ceremony for the USDA Teaching, Extension and Research winners
- The Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture
- BAA USDA Partnership Update
- BAA General Membership Session
- Administrative Heads Section (AHS) General Membership Meeting
- Academic Programs Section (APS) General Membership Meetings
- BAA Reception
- Board on Health and Human Sciences Meetings

Most FANR sessions will occur between Sunday, Nov. 12 at noon - Monday, Nov. 13 evening. Some executive business meetings will occur Sunday morning or on Tuesday. A complete schedule will be sent soon.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Joint BHHS | CAFCS Spring Meeting

February 20-23, 2024

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Washington, DC

CARET/AHS 2024 Joint Annual Meeting

February 25-28, 2024

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Washington, DC

PARTNER EVENTS

- **WEBINAR: Transdisciplinary Approaches: What They Are and Why They're Important**

Wednesday August 30, 2023 at 12pm ET | [Register Here](#)

The first webinar in the Transdisciplinary Approaches webinar series will look at what transdisciplinary approaches are, and why they matter. We'll hear from researchers engaged with transdisciplinary work, institutions that support research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries, and funding opportunities for transdisciplinary programs. This program is presented by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Agricultural Library.

Speakers:

- Alison Meadow, University of Arizona
- Dan Ferguson, University of Arizona
- Doug Steele, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU)
- Amy Ganguli, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

RESOURCES

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Funding Opportunities

View the [NIFA Upcoming RFA Calendar](#) for the latest timeline for grant programs.

APLU Member Job Postings

APLU has a [job board](#) on which member institutions may list available positions for which they are recruiting.

FOCUS is an update from the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources office of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to provide timely, relevant information and actions items to the membership of the Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (CFERR) and its member boards and sections.

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to sign up here: [FANR Focus Newsletter](#)

Doug

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